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(54) Extending application behavior through document properties

(57) A document management system is provided which organizes, stores and retrieves documents according to properties attached to the documents. A property attachment mechanism allows an application to attach arbitrary static and active properties to a document. The active properties include executable code which perform document management functions to control the state and behavior of the document in response to a triggering event. In this manner, the state and behavior of the document is provided to a user and is accurately maintained even when the application is not running.

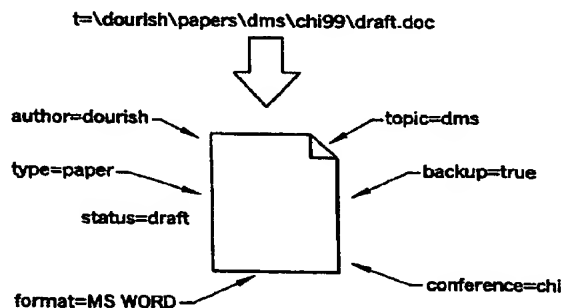


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 11 7039

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A	US 5 528 739 A (LUCAS PETER ET AL) 18 June 1996 (1996-06-18) * abstract * * column 1, line 26 - column 2, line 26 * * column 23, line 25 - line 62 * -/-	2,8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 25 October 2000	Examiner Corcoran, P
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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Application Number
EP 99 11 7039

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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A	<p>G. STAROVIC, V. CAHILL & B. TANGNEY: "An Event-Based Object Model for DIstributed Programming" 'Online! December 1995 (1995-12) , TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, TCD-CS-95-28 , DUBLIN, IE XP002151014</p> <p>Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.cs.tcd.ie/publications/tech-reports></p> <p>* abstract *</p> <p>2. Objects, Events and Constraints, p.2-6</p>	1-12	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 25 October 2000	Examiner Corcoran, P
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82